

Amendment and Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: John M. Hall

Serial No.: 09/810,281

Filed: March 15, 2001

Docket No.: 10004375-1

Title: NETWORK SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING USER-RELATIVE ADDRESSING**REMARKS**

These remarks are made in response to the Final Office Action mailed May 24, 2005. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated over Weik, U.S. Patent No. 6,587,549 ("Weik"). Claims 1-6, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Agraharam et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,987,508 ("Agraharam") in view of Weik. Claims 7-10, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Agraharam in view of Weik, and further in view of Takahashi, U.S. Patent No. 6,442,589 ("Takahashi"). Claims 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weik in view of Agraharam. Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weik in view of Takahashi. Claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weik in view of McDowell et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,438,583 ("McDowell").

With this Response, claims 1, 11, 14, and 18 have been amended. Claims 1-21 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Weik, U.S. Patent No. 6,587,549 ("Weik"). To clarify the invention recited in independent claim 18, Applicant has amended this claim herein as indicated above. Independent claim 18, as amended herein, includes the limitation "processing the destination information to determine a type of destination specified, including determining whether the destination information specifies a non-absolute sender-relative destination". There is no teaching or suggestion in Weik regarding specifying a sender-relative destination in a communication, processing destination information in a communication to determine a type of destination specified, or determining whether destination information specifies a non-absolute sender-relative destination.

The Examiner stated that Weik discloses:

providing action information identifying a plurality of actions associated with a plurality of sender-relative destinations (Weik: col. 2, line 44 – col. 3, line 3; black list = forwarded to address for scrap functions; white list forwarded for further processing);

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identifying a first action in the action information based on the received destination information (Weik: col. 2, line 44 – col. 3, line 3; black list = forwarded to address for scrap functions; white list forwarded for further processing based on sender-specific data), the first action associated with the first sender-relative destination (Weik: col. 2, lines 44-47; forward to);

identifying a first attribute in the sender record based on the first action and the received destination information (Weik: col. 2, lines 44-64; attribute is the match); (Office Action mailed 1/10/05 at page 3).

The Examiner appears to indicate above that the black list and white list disclosed in Weik are sender-relative destinations and that the actions are to forward an email. First, the black list and white list are simply lists of email addresses, and there is no teaching or suggestion in Weik that these lists include any sender-relative destinations. Second, there is no teaching or suggestion in Weik that an action is identified “based on the received destination information”. Weik discloses that the name or email address of the **sender** is compared to the white list and black list. (Weik at col. 2, lines 36-61). Thus, the decision of whether to forward the email to an address for scrap functions, or forward the email for further processing is based on the **sender** specified in the email, and not based on **destination information** specified in the email. Third, the Examiner appeared to indicate above that the identified attribute is a matching entry in the black list or white list. However, an entry in the black list or white list is not identified “based on the first action and the received destination information”. The Examiner indicated above that the “actions” were to forward the email to an address for scrap functions, or forward the email for further processing. An entry in the black list or white list is not identified based on these forwarding actions. Likewise, an entry in the black list or white list is not identified based on destination information specified in the email. Rather, Weik discloses that the **sender** specified in the email is compared to the black list or white list.

In view of the above, Weik does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of independent claim 18, as amended. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendment to claim 18, removal of the rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and requests allowance of this claim.

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35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Agraharam et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,987,508 ("Agraharam") in view of Weik. To clarify the invention recited in independent claims 1 and 14, Applicant has amended these claims herein as indicated above. Independent claims 1 and 14, as amended herein, include the limitations "associating a plurality of sender-relative destinations with a corresponding plurality of actions, wherein each of the sender-relative destinations is a non-absolute destination having an associated absolute destination that varies based on sender identity", "identifying a first action in the plurality of actions associated with the first sender-relative destination", and "determining a first absolute destination for the communication based on the first action and the sender identification information."

The Examiner has acknowledged that "[t]he Agraharam reference does not explicitly state identifying the sender." (Final Office Action at page 3). Agraharam does not teach or suggest any of the above-quoted limitations. Agraharam discloses the use of an alias email address that consists of a recipient's telephone number. (See, e.g., Agraharam at col. 1, lines 44-46). A message addressed to that alias email address is translated by a translation server to the actual email address for the recipient. (See, e.g., Agraharam at col. 1, lines 52-55). Agraharam determines the actual email address based on the received alias email address. (Agraharam at col. 1, lines 59-63). Both the actual email address and the alias email address relate to the recipient. (Agraharam at col. 1, lines 59-63). There is no teaching or suggestion in Agraharam that the actual email address is determined based on a sender of the email. Agraharam does not teach or suggest "associating a plurality of sender-relative destinations with a corresponding plurality of actions, wherein each of the sender-relative destinations is a non-absolute destination having an associated absolute destination that varies based on sender identity", "identifying a first action in the plurality of actions associated with the first sender-relative destination", or "determining a first absolute destination for the communication based on the first action and the sender identification information", as recited in independent claims 1 and 14.

Weik also does not teach or suggest the above-quoted limitations of claims 1 and 14. As described above with respect to claim 18, the black list and white list disclosed in Weik are simply lists of email addresses, and there is no teaching or suggestion in Weik that these

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lists include any sender-relative destinations. Thus, Weik does not teach or suggest "associating a plurality of sender-relative destinations with a corresponding plurality of actions, wherein each of the sender-relative destinations is a non-absolute destination having an associated absolute destination that varies based on sender identity" as recited in independent claims 1 and 14.

There is no teaching or suggestion in Weik that the identified action is "associated with the first sender-relative destination". Weik discloses that the name or email address of the **sender** is compared to the white list and black list. (Weik at col. 2, lines 36-61). Thus, the decision of whether to forward the email to an address for scrap functions, or forward the email for further processing is based on the **sender** specified in the email, and it is not associated with a **destination** specified in the email. Thus, Weik does not teach or suggest "identifying a first action in the plurality of actions associated with the first sender-relative destination" as recited in independent claims 1 and 14.

There is also no teaching or suggestion in Weik that an absolute destination is determined based on the first action. The Examiner indicated that the "action" disclosed in Weik is to forward the email. There is no teaching or suggestion in Weik to determine an absolute destination for a communication based on such an action. Thus, Weik does not teach or suggest "determining a first absolute destination for the communication based on the first action and the sender identification information" as recited in independent claims 1 and 14.

In view of the above, Agraharam and Weik, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every limitation of independent claim 1 or independent claim 14, as amended. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendment to claims 1 and 14, removal of the rejection of claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and requests allowance of these claims. Since dependent claims 2-6 and 15 further limit patentably distinct claim 1 or claim 14, claims 2-6 and 15 are believed to be allowable over the cited references, and allowance of claims 2-6 and 15 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 7-10, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Agraharam in view of Weik, and further in view of Takahashi, U.S. Patent No. 6,442,589 ("Takahashi"). Claims 7-10 are dependent on independent claim 1. Claims 16 and 17 are dependent on independent claim 14. As described above with respect to claims 1

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and 14, Agraharam and Weik do not teach or suggest the above-quoted limitations of claims 1 and 14. Takahashi also does not teach or suggest the limitations of claims 1 and 14 addressed above.

In view of the above, Agraharam, Weik, and Takashi, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every limitation of dependent claims 7-10, 16, and 17. Since dependent claims 7-10, 16, and 17 further limit patentably distinct claim 1 or 14, claims 7-10, 16, and 17 are believed to be allowable over the cited references, and allowance of claims 7-10, 16, and 17 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weik in view of Agraharam. Claims 19 and 21 are dependent on independent claim 18. As described above with respect to claim 18, Weik does not teach or suggest the above-quoted limitations of claim 18. Agraharam also does not teach or suggest the limitations of claim 18 addressed above.

In view of the above, Weik and Agraharam, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every limitation of dependent claims 19 and 21. Since dependent claims 19 and 21 further limit patentably distinct claim 18, claims 19 and 21 are believed to be allowable over the cited references, and allowance of claims 19 and 21 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weik in view of Takahashi. Claim 20 is dependent on independent claim 18. As described above with respect to claim 18, Weik does not teach or suggest the above-quoted limitations of claim 18. Takahashi also does not teach or suggest the limitations of claim 18 addressed above.

In view of the above, Weik and Takahashi, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every limitation of dependent claim 20. Since dependent claim 20 further limits patentably distinct claim 18, claim 20 is believed to be allowable over the cited references, and allowance of claim 20 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weik in view of McDowell et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,438,583 ("McDowell"). To clarify the invention recited in independent claim 11, Applicant has amended this claim herein as indicated above. Independent claim 11, as amended, includes the limitations "a controller

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coupled to the receiver and the memory, the controller configured to: process the destination information to identify a type of destination specified including identifying whether the destination information specifies a non-absolute sender-relative destination; perform at least one search of the directory server based on the stored search information and the sender identification information if the destination information specifies a sender-relative destination; and identify at least one absolute destination based on the search.”

There is no teaching or suggestion in Weik regarding specifying a sender-relative destination in a communication, or processing destination information to identify a type of destination specified including identifying whether the destination information specifies a non-absolute sender-relative destination. Weik’s disclosure that an email could be erased if the sender appears on a black list, or a copy of the email could be forwarded to another email address to have a backup copy if the sender appears on a white list, is a simple comparison of the sender’s email address to a list of email addresses, and says nothing about destination information specified in the email, processing destination information to identify a type of destination specified, or identifying whether the destination information specifies a non-absolute sender-relative destination. McDowell also does not teach or suggest a controller configured to process destination information to identify a type of destination specified including identifying whether the destination information specifies a non-absolute sender-relative destination.

The Examiner indicated that Weik discloses at column 2, lines 44-61, a controller configured to perform at least one search of a directory server based on the stored search information and the sender identification information if the destination information specifies a sender-relative destination. (Final Office Action at page 6). The Examiner acknowledged, however, that “[t]he Weik reference does not explicitly state a directory server.” (Final Office Action at page 6). Weik, at column 2, lines 44-61, discloses that sender specific data are compared with either a black list or a white list. There is no teaching or suggestion in Weik regarding searching a directory server, let alone searching a directory server based on stored search information [that identifies searches associated with sender-relative destinations] and sender identification information, as recited in claim 11. The Examiner stated that “[t]he McDowell references teaches LDAP with a directory server (McDowell: col. 6, lines 12-18; Figure 12)”. (Final Office Action at page 6). However, there is no

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teaching or suggestion in McDowell that the directory server is searched based on stored search information [that identifies searches associated with sender-relative destinations] and sender identification information, as recited in claim 11.

The Examiner indicated that Weik discloses at column 2, lines 62-66, a controller configured to identify at least one absolute destination based on the search. As described above, there is no teaching or suggestion in Weik regarding searching a directory server. If no such search is taught or suggested, it logically follows that Weik also does not teach or suggest identifying at least one absolute destination based on such a search. Weik, at column 2, lines 62-66, discloses that if the result of the comparison with the white list is positive, a backup copy of the email is stored. This cited portion of Weik does not teach or suggest identifying at least one absolute destination based on a search of a directory server. As described above, there is also no teaching or suggestion in McDowell that a directory server is searched based on stored search information [that identifies searches associated with sender-relative destinations] and sender identification information. If no such search is taught or suggested, it logically follows that McDowell also does not teach or suggest identifying at least one absolute destination based on such a search.

In view of the above, Weik and McDowell, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every limitation of independent claim 11. The Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendment to claim 11, removal of the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and requests allowance of this claim. Since dependent claims 12 and 13 further limit patentably distinct claim 11, claims 12 and 13 are believed to be allowable over the cited references, and allowance of claims 12 and 13 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-21 are in form for allowance and are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-21 is respectfully requested.

No fees are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16(h)(i). However, if such fees are required, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone numbers to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Jeff D. Limon at Telephone No. (541) 715-5979, Facsimile No. (541) 715-8581 or Jeff A. Holmen at Telephone No. (612) 573-0178, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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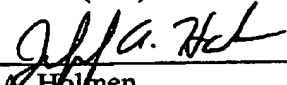
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being transmitted via telefacsimile to Examiner Bruckart, Group Art Unit 2155, at Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on this 19th day of July, 2005.

By 
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